

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

AVISTA CORPORATION,

To Amend its Certificate of Public  
Convenience and Necessity to Operate a  
Gas Plant for Hire in the Spokane,  
Pullman, Clarkston, Colfax, Colville,  
Kettle Falls, Albion, Palouse, Odessa,  
Harrington, Davenport, Endicot, and  
Goldendale, and surrounding areas.

DOCKET UG-170297

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 19, 2017, consistent with the requirements of RCW 80.28.190, Avista Corporation (Avista or Company) filed an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire (Application) to include additional areas in eastern Washington contiguous to its presently certificated areas. This request was updated on July 11, 2017, January 3, 2018, and August 6, 2018.
- 2 Avista is presently certificated for and is now providing gas service in Spokane, Spangle, Colton, Uniontown, Pullman, Clarkston, SW of Clarkston, Colfax, Rosalia, St. John, LaCrosse, Deer Park, Springdale, South East of Steven, Chewelah, Colville, Kettle Falls, Lind, Sprague, Davenport, Reardan, Albion, Palouse, Odessa, Harrington, Davenport, Ritzville, Endicot, Stevenson, Goldendale, Warden, Connell, Keystone, and surrounding areas. Avista is requesting a certificate to expand its service territory in the following areas: Spokane, Pullman, Clarkston, SW of Clarkston, Colfax, Colville, Kettle Falls, Albion, Palouse, Odessa, Harrington, Davenport, Endicot, Goldendale, and surrounding areas (see maps in Exhibit B of the filing). The additional areas requested are contiguous to the existing certificated area (legal description is shown in Exhibit B of the filing).
- 3 This filing requests no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to service these additions to Avista's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together

with the treatment of the same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Avista's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.

4 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Company's filing and recommends the Commission grant Avista's Application.

### DISCUSSION

5 We agree with Staff's recommendation and grant Avista's Application. No other gas provider currently serves the area that Avista proposes to serve. Accordingly, the public convenience and necessity requires such operation in the areas described in the Application.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies.

7 (2) Avista is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

8 (3) RCW 80.28.190 states no gas company shall operate in this state any gas plant for hire without first having obtained from the Commission a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered.

9 (4) Avista has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate a gas plant for hire.

10 (5) Avista has filed an application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to include an additional areas in Spokane, Pullman, Clarkston, SW of Clarkston, Colfax, Colville, Kettle Falls, Albion, Palouse, Odessa, Harrington, Davenport, Endicot, Goldendale, and surrounding areas. These areas are contiguous to Avista's presently certificated area.

- 11 (6) Commission Staff has reviewed the Company's Application and recommends the Commission approve the Application to allow Avista to amend its certificate to include the additional area requested.
- 12 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 13, 2018.
- 13 (8) After review of the request filed by Avista and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the public convenience and necessity require that Avista's Certificate be amended to reflect the addition of areas in Spokane, Pullman, Clarkston, SW of Clarkston, Colfax, Colville, Kettle Falls, Albion, Palouse, Odessa, Harrington, Davenport, Endicot, Goldendale, and surrounding areas.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 14 (1) Avista Corporation's Application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire within the certificated area in Spokane, Pullman, Clarkston, SW of Clarkston, Colfax, Colville, Kettle Falls, Albion, Palouse, Odessa, Harrington, Davenport, Endicot, Goldendale, and surrounding areas is granted, and the Certificate shall be amended in accordance with the legal descriptions provided on April 19, 2017, and in the supplemental information filed on July 11, 2017, January 3, 2018, and August 6, 2018.
- 15 (2) This Order makes no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to serve this addition to Avista Corporation's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Avista's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.
- 16 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Avista Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 13, 2018.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary**